

AFRICA'S LAKES

Atlas of Our Changing Environment

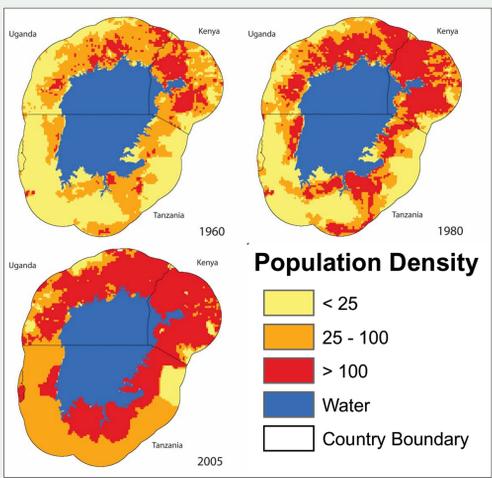
According to the WORLDLAKE database there are 677 lakes in Africa. There are 15 natural lakes that cross the political boundaries of two or more countries and 60 transboundary river basins covering over 63 per cent of Africa's land area.

Lake Victoria is the largest freshwater lake in Africa and the second largest in the world, occupying a total catchment of about 250 000 km², of which 68 870 km² is the actual lake surface.

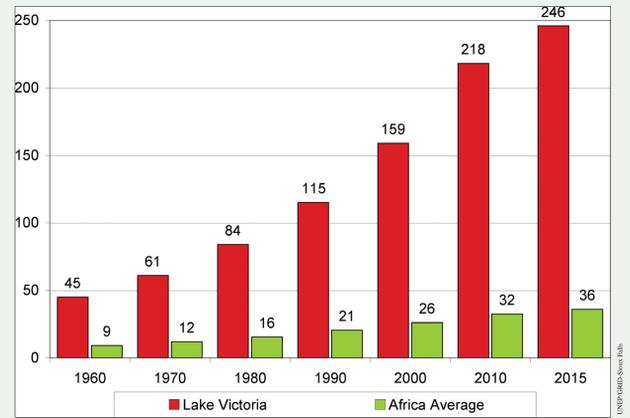
POPULATION GROWTH AROUND LAKE VICTORIA

Lake Victoria supports one of the poorest and most dense rural populations in the world. The rate of population growth within a 100

km buffer zone around the lake has outpaced the continental average in recent decades and this dramatic growth is projected to continue.



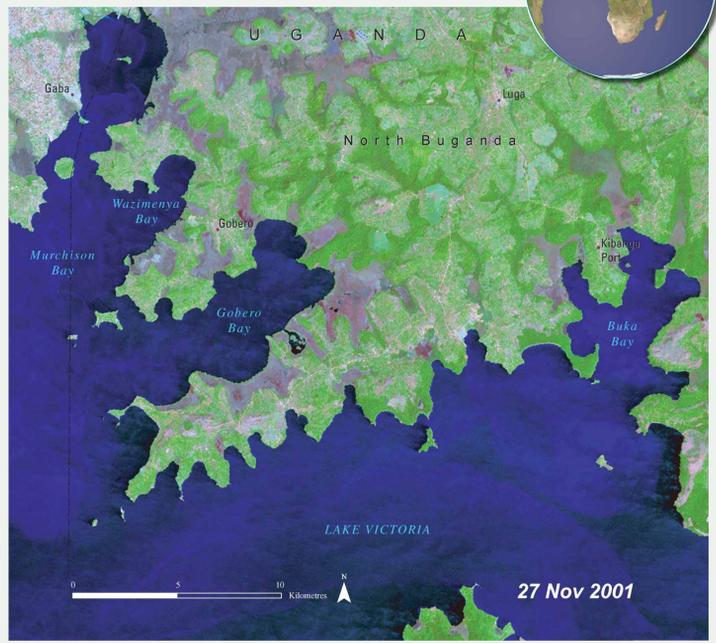
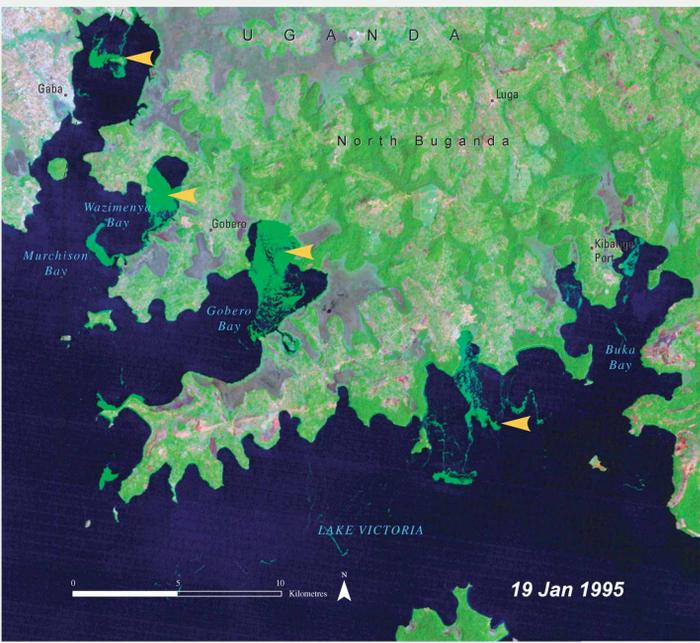
Population Density Growth Around Lake Victoria Compared to the Continental Average



VISIBLE REDUCTION OF INVASIVE SPECIES IN LAKE VICTORIA

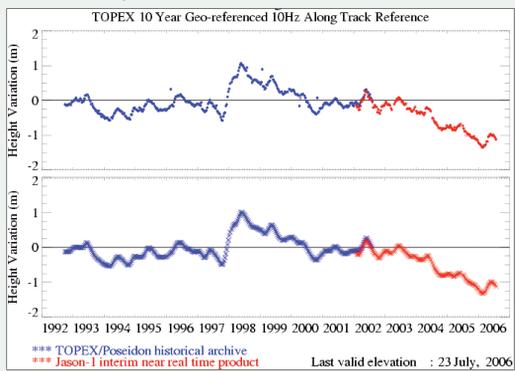
Lake Victoria was widely invaded by water hyacinth during the 1990s. The 1995 image shows several hyacinth-choked bays (yellow arrows). Control measures like manual removal and more recent

careful introduction of natural insect predators has considerably reduced the infestation. As seen in the 2001 image, the floating weeds have all but disappeared from the bays.



FALLING WATER LEVEL OF LAKE VICTORIA

Lake Victoria Height Variations



Lake Victoria's water level variation, derived from satellite altimeter measurements, shows a negative height variation trend. Current water levels are below normal and the lowest level since September 1961.

